

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An adjustable orthopedic tool comprising:
 - 1) a shaft comprising:
 - a) a distal portion comprising a first end comprising a cutting portion configured to drill a hole in bone;
 - b) a proximal portion comprising a second end configured to be coupled to a source of rotational motion;
 - c) a central portion, located between the proximal and distal portions, comprising an adjustment portion comprising external threads; and
 - d) a fastener receiving portion, located between the external threads of the adjustment portion and the distal cutting portion, configured to receive at least a portion of a cannulated fastener thereon;
 - 2) a fastener engaging portion located distally from the threaded adjustment portion and configured to rotationally couple ~~the shaft~~ to the cannulated fastener and transmit rotational motion to the cannulated fastener; and
 - 3) an adjustment mechanism mounted on the adjustment portion of the shaft, the adjustment mechanism comprising internal threads adapted to engage the external threads of the adjustment portion of the shaft such that the adjustment mechanism can move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft by being rotated with respect to the adjustment portion of the shaft;

wherein movement of the adjustment mechanism along a longitudinal axis of the shaft moves the fastener engaging portion along the longitudinal axis of the shaft and adjusts the distance between the fastener engaging portion and the cutting portion of the shaft; and

wherein when a cannulated fastener having a head portion and a tip portion is received on the shaft, the distance between the fastener engaging portion and the cutting portion of the shaft is adjustable to allow the fastener engaging portion to rotationally engage the fastener head while allowing at least a first length of the shaft cutting portion to extend distally beyond the fastener tip.

2. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 1, wherein the cutting portion and the fastener engaging portion can be rotated at different speeds with respect to one another.

3. (Previously Canceled)

4. (Previously Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 1 [4], wherein the adjustment mechanism comprises at least first and second sleeves, the first sleeve comprising inner threads configured to engage the external threads of the shaft and the fastener engaging portion disposed on the second sleeve.

6. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 5, the shaft further comprising a plurality of calibration marks disposed between the adjustment portion and the second end, each calibration mark corresponding to a predetermined distance between the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment mechanism and the first end of the shaft.

7. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 6, the first sleeve further having a proximal end, wherein adjusting the adjustment mechanism so that the proximal end of the first sleeve lies adjacent to one of the calibration marks results in the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment mechanism being located a predetermined distance from the first end of the shaft corresponding to the mark.

8. (Previously Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 1 [8], wherein the first length is selected in the range of from about 0 millimeters (mm) to about 10 mm.

10. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 9, wherein the first length is about 1 mm.

11. (Original) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 9, wherein the first length is about 4.5 mm

12-37 (Previously Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) An adjustable orthopedic tool comprising:

1) a shaft comprising:

a) a distal portion comprising a first end comprising a cutting portion configured to drill a hole in bone;

b) a proximal portion comprising a second end configured to be coupled to a source of rotational motion;

c) a central portion, located between the proximal and distal portions, comprising an adjustment portion comprising external threads; and

d) a fastener receiving portion, located distally from the threaded adjustment portion, configured to receive at least a portion of a cannulated fastener thereon;

2) a fastener engaging portion located distally from threads of the adjustment portion and configured to rotationally couple ~~the shaft~~ to the cannulated fastener and transmit rotational motion to the cannulated fastener; and

3) an adjustment mechanism mounted on the adjustment portion of the shaft, the adjustment mechanism comprising:

a) a first sleeve having inner threads configured to engage the external threads of the adjustment portion of the shaft such that the adjustment mechanism can move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft by being rotated with respect to the adjustment portion of the shaft; and

b) a second sleeve having the fastener engaging portion disposed thereon; wherein the adjustment mechanism can move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft to adjust a distance between the fastener engaging portion and the first end of the shaft; and

wherein when a cannulated fastener having a head portion and a tip portion is received on the shaft, the distance is adjustable to allow the fastener engaging portion of the

adjustment mechanism to rotationally engage the fastener head while allowing at least a first length of the shaft cutting portion to extend distally beyond the fastener tip.

39. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 38, wherein the cutting portion and the fastener engaging portion can be rotated at different speeds with respect to one another.

40. (Previously Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 38, the shaft further comprising a plurality of calibration marks disposed between the adjustment portion and the second end, each calibration mark corresponding to a predetermined distance between the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment mechanism and the first end of the shaft.

42. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 41, the first sleeve further having a proximal end, wherein adjusting the adjustment mechanism so that the proximal end of the first sleeve lies adjacent to one of the calibration marks results in the fastener engaging portion of the adjustment mechanism being located a predetermined distance from the first end of the shaft corresponding to the mark.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 38 [43], wherein the first length is selected in the range of from about 0 millimeters (mm) to about 10 mm.

45. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 44, wherein the first length is about 1 mm.

46. (Previously Presented) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 44, wherein the first length is about 4.5 mm.

47. (Currently Amended) An adjustable orthopedic tool configured to receive a fastener having a head portion, a tip portion, and a cannulation, comprising:

1) a shaft comprising:

a) a distal portion comprising a first end comprising a cutting portion configured to drill a hole in bone;

b) a proximal portion comprising a second end configured to be coupled to a source of rotational motion;

c) a central portion located between the proximal and distal portions and comprising an adjustment portion comprising external threads; and

d) a fastener receiving portion located distally from the threads of the adjustment portion and configured to extend into the cannulation of the fastener;

2) a fastener engaging portion, located distally from the threads of the adjustment portion, configured to rotationally couple ~~the shaft~~ to the fastener and transmit rotational motion to the fastener; and

3) an adjustment mechanism mounted on the adjustment portion of the shaft, the adjustment mechanism comprising:

a) a first sleeve having inner threads configured to engage the external threads of the adjustment portion of the shaft such that the adjustment mechanism can move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft by rotating the adjustment mechanism with respect to the adjustment portion of the shaft; and

b) a second sleeve having ~~[[the]]~~ the fastener engaging portion disposed thereon;

wherein the adjustment mechanism is adapted to move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft to adjust a distance between the fastener engaging portion and the cutting portion of the shaft;

wherein the distance between the fastener engaging portion and the cutting portion of the shaft may be adjusted such that the fastener engaging portion engages the head portion of the fastener and the cutting portion of the shaft extends beyond the tip of the fastener.

48. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) An adjustable orthopedic tool configured to receive a fastener having a head portion, a tip portion, and a cannulation, comprising:

1) a shaft comprising:

a) a distal drill portion comprising a cutting drill tip configured to drill a hole in bone;

b) a proximal portion comprising a proximal end configured to be coupled to a source of rotational motion;

c) a central portion, located between the distal and proximal portions, comprising an adjustment portion comprising external threads; and

d) a fastener receiving portion, located distally from the threads of the adjustment portion, configured to extend into the cannulation of the fastener;

2) a proximal adjustment sleeve having an internal bore to accept the shaft, and having internal threads configured to engage the external threads of the adjustment portion of the shaft;

3) a collar having a proximal and a distal end, and rotatably connected to the proximal adjustment sleeve and having an internal bore to accept the shaft;

4) a distal adjustment sleeve having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being connected to the collar, and the distal end having a fastener engaging portion, and having an internal bore to accept the shaft, wherein rotational movement of the shaft causes rotational movement of the fastener engaging portion of the distal adjustment sleeve; and

wherein rotating the proximal adjustment sleeve causes the fastener engagement portion of the distal adjustment sleeve to move along a longitudinal axis of the shaft to adjust a distance between the fastener engagement portion and the drill tip.

49. (Withdrawn) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 48 wherein when the cannulated fastener is received on the fastener receiving portion of the shaft and the fastener engaging portion of the distal adjustment sleeve is engaged with the head portion of the fastener, the proximal adjustment sleeve can be rotated to provide a first length of the distal drill portion between the drill tip and the tip portion of the fastener.

50. (Withdrawn) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 49 wherein the first length is between 0 mm and 10 mm.

51. (Withdrawn) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 50 wherein the first length is about 1 mm.

52. (Withdrawn) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 50 wherein the first length is about 4.5 mm.

53. (Withdrawn) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 48 wherein the distal drill portion of the shaft and the fastener engaging portion of the distal adjustment sleeve can be rotated at different speeds with respect to one another.

54. (Withdrawn) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 48 wherein the internal bore of the collar has a flat surface configured to mate with a flat surface portion of the shaft.

55. (Withdrawn) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 48 wherein the distal adjustment sleeve has external threads located proximate to its proximal end, and wherein the collar has internal threads located proximate to its distal end, and wherein the distal adjustment sleeve is threadedly connected to the collar.

56. (New) The adjustable orthopedic tool of claim 48, the shaft further comprising a plurality of calibration marks disposed on the proximal portion, each calibration mark corresponding to a predetermined distance between the drill tip of the shaft and the tip portion of the fastener.